

## **Extract from Ashington Town Council – New Council Term Guide, Cllr Handbook**

### **Working with County Councillors**

#### ***Effective Partnership Working***

Building a productive relationship with County Councillors representing Ashington is essential for addressing community needs that span both tiers.

#### ***Communication Channels***

- **Regular Liaison:** Establish consistent communication with County Councillors through formal and informal channels.
- **Issue Referral:** Properly direct county-level matters (highways, education, social services, etc.) to the appropriate County Councillor.
- **Information Sharing:** Keep County Councillors informed of relevant town council initiatives that may impact or complement county services.

#### ***Collaborative Approaches***

- **Complementary Representation:** Recognise the different but complementary roles of Town and County Councillors in serving local residents.
- **Joint Working:** Identify opportunities for partnership on projects benefiting the community.

#### ***County Council Resources***

- **Members' Local Improvement Scheme:** County Councillors have access to discretionary funding that can support local projects.
- **Technical Expertise:** County officers possess and may have access to specialist knowledge that can benefit town initiatives.
- **Wider Strategic Context:** County Councillors can provide insight into how local issues fit within broader county strategies.

#### ***Ward-Based Cooperation***

- **Local Intelligence:** Share ward-specific knowledge to ensure comprehensive understanding of community needs.
- **Constituent Support:** Coordinate approaches to helping residents with complex issues that cross governmental tiers.
- **Avoid Duplication:** Ensure clarity on which tier of government is leading on specific local issues.

#### ***Protocol Considerations***

Often there are what we refer to as twin-hatted Cllrs, representing both the County and Town Council. Where this is not the case County Cllrs will always be made aware of Town Council meetings. Developing strong working relationships with County Councillors can significantly enhance the Town Council's effectiveness and maximise the resources available to benefit Ashington residents.